

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today secured critical funding for vital public safety programs in Lane County.

The City of Eugene will receive \$150,000 to expand a regional command and simulation center for Lane County and the City of Eugene law enforcement and emergency response agencies. The project is needed to attain and maintain compliance with the National Incident Management System, enhance security at the county jail, and improve communication between agencies so they can efficiently and effectively respond to emergencies. Public safety agencies in Lane County have effectively shared an integrated system for the last 40 years and this funding will allow them to build on this success.

Additionally, Lane County will receive \$500,000 for an offender treatment and transition program. The project will create a treatment program for adult felony and misdemeanor offenders which will free up 48 jail beds. Violent crime and property crime have gone up in recent years in Lane County while other parts of Oregon are seeing a decrease in crime. This project will free up much needed jail beds, increasing the overall capacity of the jail and help keep criminals off the streets.

“Public safety is the most basic function of government. In the last year, crime levels have gone up in Lane County, meaning that programs like these are more critical than ever. I am pleased to help fund these vital programs that will make our citizens safer,” DeFazio said. “

The funding was included in the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Act of 2010, which passed out of Subcommittee today. The measure now must be considered by the full House Appropriations Committee.